



Chris McIntosh between the Micronair and one of the Linear saws it extracts.

## Clean air at VIP

As with many other businesses around ANZ, VIP Frames & Trusses have been working to improve the air quality inside their Christchurch East location. And with around 100 staff, most on the factory floor, there's plenty of incentive to keep staff healthy, and happy. While it's often a visit from an inspector or concern about upcoming legislation that drives many companies to upgrade their extraction, at VIP there's another reason, as Factory Manager Chris McIntosh explains.

"An improved working environment has been the main push for an upgraded extraction system. But, good extraction is also critical for some of our machines." VIP run two Linear Saws – 5-axis CNC saws that are very accurate, but also sensitive. "To get the accuracy and reliability we need, the extraction has to be top notch" says Chris.

VIP have invested in one of the Vibra-Clean (VC) series of machines from Australia's dust control experts Micronair (available in NZ from Jacks). With a 15kW motor the Micronair has plenty of power – which it needs when you look at the vast distances the ducting travels around VIP's expansive production area. With a self-cleaning vibration system the VC series offer a compact footprint yet large filter area, and a clever airflow design means excellent results. The VC series are designed for placement outside – which is where VIP's machine may eventually end up if a proposed move to a nearby site goes ahead. The vibration cleaning process for the machine is automated at every shut down so there is no operator involvement.

Before the Micronair, VIP were operating bag units attached to individual machines, and a lot of time was spent emptying bags – usually every day. The CNC saws in particular do a lot of work, and while much of what is extracted is

just fine sawdust there's also small to medium sized chips and even the odd block of 90 x 45. "The new extractor is a brilliant design" says Chris. "Even the large bits of wood it pulls from the other side of the factory don't go through any fans or filters – but just drop straight into the bin."

VIP chose to fit a custom-sized bin under their machine – with Micronair making a hood unit to match. At the push of a button air rams lift the hood to allow removal of the bin for emptying.

"We do it over a break" says Chris. "Switch it off, let it do its vibration thing then pull it out for emptying. We've got our own vehicle rigged up to take our custom-designed bin. When we're done we relocate the bin, push the button and down comes the hood and seals it again and we're good to go. From switching it off to dumping it at the tip and putting it back in we do the whole lot over lunch, with no factory disruption."

VIP are one of NZ's biggest, producing framing and trusses for up to 7 houses a day. With no slow-down in sight for Christchurch's house-building sector they're positive about the future. That positivity is represented in the sheer size of the massive bin they've built to put under their Micronair.

"We used to empty extraction bags every day" says Chris. "Now it's once every two or three weeks. The days of lugging dusty bags around this place are a thing of the past!"



Micronair is sold and serviced in NZ  
by W&R Jacks  
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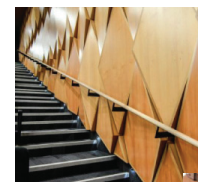
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